

IN THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Canceled)

20. A method of disambiguating a syntactically ambiguous natural language statement comprising the steps of:

- (a) parsing the syntactically ambiguous natural language statement into at least two structured representations, wherein the first structured representation comprises at least one first keyphrase and the second structured representation comprises at least one second keyphrase;
- (b) searching a cross-linked keyphrase ontology database for a keyphrase node representing a third keyphrase, wherein the third keyphrase matches the first keyphrase or the second keyphrase;
- (c) if the first keyphrase matches the third keyphrase and the second keyphrase does not match the third keyphrase, designating the first structured representation as a first disambiguated statement interpretation;
- (d) if the second keyphrase matches the third keyphrase and the first keyphrase does not match the third keyphrase, designating the second structured representation as a second disambiguated statement interpretation; and
- (e) if the first keyphrase matches the third keyphrase and the second keyphrase matches the third keyphrase or the first keyphrase does not match the third keyphrase and the second keyphrase does not match the third keyphrase, determining that the syntactically ambiguous natural language statement cannot be disambiguated.

21. The method of disambiguation of claim 20, wherein the syntactically ambiguous natural language statement is a query.
22. The method of disambiguating of claim 20, wherein the third keyphrase is identical to the first keyphrase or the second keyphrase.
23. The method of disambiguating of claim 20, wherein the third keyphrase is a synonym of the first keyphrase or the second keyphrase.
24. The method of disambiguating of claim 20, wherein the third keyphrase is a metonym of the first keyphrase or the second keyphrase.
25. The method of disambiguating of claim 20, wherein the syntactically ambiguous natural language statement is in the English language.